



JERRY DAVIS
City Council Member
District B

July 15, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioner Clyburn, Commissioner Rosenworcel, Commissioner Pai,
Commissioner O'Rielly:

I am writing today to express concern over recent reports that the FCC might end its decades-old sports blackout rule. The Houston Texans are a unifying force in the Houston region and across Texas, representing an important part of the community as well as the local economy. As a member of the Houston City Council representing District B and also serving as Vice Mayor Pro-Tem, I know firsthand the benefits that a full stadium brings to my area – an estimated annual impact of \$250 million to the City of Houston.

The NFL's blackout rule ensures that the stadium is full before a game can be broadcasted. If the proposed changes pass, cable and satellite companies would be able to air the game even if the game is not sold out, thus removing incentive to fill the stadium week after week. Importantly, this rule is not just about filling stadiums – jobs are created, tax revenue is generated and local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, stores and parking companies are supported. Many businesses depend on the business that full stadiums bring to our area. Our city and region greatly benefit from game day traffic.

This rule is also a key part of a system that works for the tens of millions of fans that watch NFL regular season and playoff games on free local television. The percentage of this population that relies on free broadcast television is significant and continues to grow. Furthermore, the demographics of this population are compelling, as it is comprised of sizable percentages of minorities and lower-income families who depend on this rule throughout Houston. According to a profile of my district completed by the City of Houston Planning and Development Department in June of 2014, 33% of the population has a household income of under \$25,000 annually and the median household income is \$30,189. These fans in my district, as well as fans across the U.S., should not be forced to pay to watch games they already get for free. Nearly all (more than 99 percent) of last season's NFL games were broadcast on free local television, and we know an effort is underway to make sure fans have access to every game in 2014.

The current system is strong and is not in need of change. Please help protect the local businesses, economy and fans that depend on this important rule. Everyone wins when the NRG stadium is full and games are on free TV.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry V. Davis". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of each word being large and prominent.

Jerry V. Davis
Vice Mayor Pro-Tem
Houston City Council, District B